

Claims

1. Apparatus including a multiple chamber elastomeric bladder disposed in a vehicle seat for occupant position and weight estimation, comprising:
 - 5 first and second individual fluid-filled bladder chambers, the first chamber being disposed in a central area of said seat that is primarily used by a normally seated occupant, and the second chamber being disposed in a peripheral area of said seat that is laterally outboard and forward of said central area; and
 - 10 the second chamber having at least one fluid-filled finger that extends inward toward the first chamber to enhance detection of occupant shifting between the central and peripheral areas of said seat based on relative fluid pressures in said first and second chambers.
2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:
 - 5 the second chamber has a plurality of fingers that extend inward toward the first chamber, and the first chamber has a plurality of fingers that extend outward toward said second chamber, the fingers of the first chamber being interdigitated with the fingers of the second chamber.
3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein:
 - 5 the fingers of said second chamber extend laterally inward, and the fingers of said first chamber extend laterally outward.
4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:
 - 5 said fluid-filled finger extends rearward from a front-center portion of said seat to enhance detection of occupant shifting between the central area of

5 said seat and a forward peripheral area of said seat based on relative fluid
pressures in said first and second chambers.